

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting a data link user for a  
2 communication protocol, comprising:  
at a data link provider, receiving from a data link user through an interface  
4 defined between the data link provider and the data link user, a first request to identify a  
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;  
6 receiving at the data link provider from the data link user a second request to  
identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
8 in response to said second request, enabling the data link user to parse the  
communication protocol.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 in response to said first request, indicating to the data link user that the medium  
access control type ~~said communication protocol~~ is a type protocol not registered with the  
4 interface.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said  
2 enabling comprises:  
sending the data link user an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document  
4 describing a said format of the communication protocol.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said  
2 enabling comprises:  
sending the data link user a set of data describing a said format of the  
4 communication protocol.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said  
2 enabling comprises:  
making available to the data link user a set of processor executable instructions  
4 for parsing a said format of the communication protocol.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium  
2 storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a  
method of adapting a data link user for a communication protocol, the method  
4 comprising:  
at a data link provider, receiving from a data link user through an interface  
6 defined between the data link provider and the data link user, a first request to identify a  
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;  
8 receiving at the data link provider from the data link user a second request to  
identify a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
10 in response to said second request, enabling the data link user to parse the  
communication protocol.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of adapting to a communication  
2 protocol supported by a data link provider, comprising:  
at a data link user, through an interface defined between the data link user and a  
4 data link provider, requesting the data link provider to identify a medium access control  
type supported by the data link provider;  
6 at the data link user, requesting the data link provider to identify a communication  
protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
8 at the data link user, receiving a description of a ~~the~~ format of the communication  
protocol from the data link provider.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2 receiving at the data link user, in response to said request to identify a medium  
access control type, an indication that said medium access control type is not one of a  
4 predetermined set of medium access control types registered with the interface.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving comprises:  
2 receiving an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document describing said  
format.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving comprises:  
2 receiving a set of data describing said format.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving comprises:  
2 receiving access to a set of processor executable instructions for parsing said  
communication protocol.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium  
2 storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a  
method of adapting to a communication protocol supported by a data link provider, the  
4 method comprising:  
at a data link user, through an interface defined between the data link user and a  
6 data link provider, requesting the data link provider to identify a medium access control  
type supported by the data link provider;  
8 at the data link user, requesting the data link provider to identify a communication  
protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
10 at the data link user, receiving a description of the format of the communication  
protocol from the data link provider.

13. (Original) A method of adapting a data link user for a communication  
2 protocol supported by a data link provider, wherein the data link user and data link  
provider communicate via an interface, comprising:  
4 at the data link user, issuing a first request to the data link provider to identify a  
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;  
6 at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a first response comprising  
an indication that the medium access control type is unknown to the interface;  
8 at the data link user, issuing a second request to the data link provider to identify a  
communication protocol supported by the data link provider for the medium access  
10 control type; and  
at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a second response enabling

12 the data link user to parse the communication protocol.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein:  
2 said first request comprises the DLPI (Data Link Provider Interface) primitive  
DL\_INFO\_REQ; and  
4 said first response comprises the DLPI primitive DL\_INFO\_ACK with the  
parameter dl\_mac\_type having the value DL\_OTHER.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein said second response comprises an XML  
2 (Extensible Markup Language) document describing a format of the communication  
protocol.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response  
2 comprises a set of data describing a format of the communication protocol.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response  
2 comprises a set of processor executable instructions for parsing the communication  
protocol.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said second response  
2 comprises access to a set of processor executable instructions, on the data link provider,  
for parsing the communication protocol.

19. (Original) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of adapting  
a data link user for a communication protocol supported by a data link provider, wherein  
4 the data link user and data link provider communicate via an interface, the method  
comprising:  
6 at the data link user, issuing a first request to the data link provider to identify a  
medium access control type supported by the data link provider;  
8 at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a first response comprising

an indication that the medium access control type is unknown to the interface;  
10           at the data link user, issuing a second request to the data link provider to identify a  
communication protocol supported by the data link provider for the medium access  
12 control type; and  
              at the data link provider, sending to the data link user a second response enabling  
14 the data link user to parse the communication protocol.

20.     (Original)     A system for adapting a data link user for a communication  
2 protocol supported by data link user, comprising:  
          a data link provider configured to provide data link layer services;  
4           a data link user configured to access said data link services; and  
          an extended implementation of DLPI (Data Link Provider Interface), in which:  
6           said data link user is configured to request said data link provider identify  
a communication protocol supported by the data link provider; and  
8           said data link provider is configured to offer said data link user, in  
response to said request, information for parsing the communication protocol.

21.     (Original)     The system of claim 20, wherein said data link provider  
2 comprises a device driver for a communication interface device.

22.     (Original)     The system of claim 20, wherein said data link user  
2 comprises a snoop utility for parsing a communication received by said data link  
provider.

23.     (Original)     The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered  
2 by said data link provider comprises an XML (Extensible Markup Language) document  
describing a format of the communication protocol.

24.     (Original)     The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered  
2 by said data link provider comprises a set of data describing a format of the  
communication protocol.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered  
2 by said data link provider comprises a set of processor executable instructions for parsing  
the communication protocol.

26. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information offered  
2 by said data link provider enables said data link user to access, on said data link provider,  
a set of processor executable instructions for parsing the communication protocol.